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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/591,296	08/31/2006	Akio Enomoto	129280	9195
27049 7590 03/23/2011 OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 320850 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320-4850				
EXAMINER				
RIVERA, JOSHEL				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1746				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
03/23/2011		ELECTRONIC		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

OfficeAction27049@oliff.com  
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**Advisory Action  
Before the Filing of an Appeal Brief**

**Application No.**

10/591,296

**Applicant(s)**

ENOMOTO ET AL.

**Examiner**

JOSHUA RIVERA

**Art Unit**

1746

***--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --***

THE REPLY FILED 14 March 2011 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.

1. ☒ The reply was filed after a final rejection, but prior to or on the same day as filing a Notice of Appeal. To avoid abandonment of this application, applicant must timely file one of the following replies: (1) an amendment, affidavit, or other evidence, which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee) in compliance with 37 CFR 41.31; or (3) a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114. The reply must be filed within one of the following time periods:

- a) ☐ The period for reply expires \_\_\_\_\_ months from the mailing date of the final rejection.  
b) ☒ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.  
Examiner Note: If box 1 is checked, check either box (a) or (b). ONLY CHECK BOX (b) WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**NOTICE OF APPEAL**

2. ☐ The Notice of Appeal was filed on \_\_\_\_\_. A brief in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 must be filed within two months of the date of filing the Notice of Appeal (37 CFR 41.37(a)), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 41.37(e)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal. Since a Notice of Appeal has been filed, any reply must be filed within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 41.37(a).

**AMENDMENTS**

3. ☐ The proposed amendment(s) filed after a final rejection, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because  
(a) ☐ They raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);  
(b) ☐ They raise the issue of new matter (see NOTE below);  
(c) ☐ They are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or  
(d) ☐ They present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: \_\_\_\_\_. (See 37 CFR 1.116 and 41.33(a)).

4. ☐ The amendments are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. See attached Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (PTOL-324).  
5. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): \_\_\_\_\_.  
6. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).  
7. ☒ For purposes of appeal, the proposed amendment(s): a) ☐ will not be entered, or b) ☒ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.  
The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:  
Claim(s) allowed: \_\_\_\_\_.  
Claim(s) objected to: \_\_\_\_\_.  
Claim(s) rejected: 1, 4-9 and 11.  
Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: \_\_\_\_\_.

**AFFIDAVIT OR OTHER EVIDENCE**

8. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after a final action, but before or on the date of filing a Notice of Appeal will not be entered because applicant failed to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the affidavit or other evidence is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 1.116(e).  
9. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after the date of filing a Notice of Appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because the affidavit or other evidence failed to overcome all rejections under appeal and/or appellant fails to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why it is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 41.33(d)(1).  
10. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence is entered. An explanation of the status of the claims after entry is below or attached.

**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION/OTHER**

11. ☒ The request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because:  
See Continuation Sheet.  
12. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s). (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_  
13. ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

/KAT WYROZESKI/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1746

Continuation of 11, does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: the arguments are not persuasive. Applicant argues that the apparatus of Fukuta does not teach or suggest a tape bonder because is silent with regards to how the sheet is adhered to the honeycomb structure while claim 1 implicitly recites a tape bonder that adheres an uncut tape. Claim 1 recites that the machine requires a tape bonder to bond a tape onto an end surface of the honeycomb structural body. Since Fukuta states that a sheet is adhered to an end face of the honeycomb body it would be inherent that this is performed by a tape bonder because the tape has to be adhered to the honeycomb structure by some means. Claim 1 recites no structural description regarding the tape bonder only that bonds tape to a honeycomb structure, which is a functional limitation and not a structural limitation. Additionally, even though it is a functional limitation and functional limitations are not examined in apparatus claims unless it provides a structural limitation, claim 1 does not state that the tape is uncut, only that tape is bonded to the honeycomb body and then is cut. The fact that the apparatus uses a laser oscillator to cut the bonded tape does not indicate that the tape was not cut prior to the bonding and then the machine performs a second cut to remove excess material. If Applicant wishes to differentiate the apparatus of Fukuta from the claimed invention Applicant must be more descriptive regarding the tape bonder other than saying what it does because the tape bonded in the art of Fukuta must be performed by a tape bonding unit.

Regarding Applicant's arguments against the art of Yamamura, Applicant argues that the stripping section cannot be considered to be a winding element because it collects the adhered portion of an adhesion sheet by means of an adhesion force that is greater than the adhesion force between the end of the honeycomb structure and the adhesion sheet and does not facilitate the adhesion of a sheet onto the honeycomb structure but instead removes the sheet from the honeycomb structure. This argument is unpersuasive. First, claim 1 states that the winding element is for winding a residual portion of the tape that is created after the tape is cut by the laser oscillator. In other words the winding element attached to the tape bonder is not used for facilitating the adhesion of the sheet onto the honeycomb structure but simply to collect excess material not needed for the manufacture of the honeycomb structure. Second, apparatus claims are examined by their structure not their function. The stripping section in Yamamura has the same structural limitation as the winding element in the claimed invention, which means the stripping section in Yamamura is capable of performing the function the winding element does in the claimed invention. It is Applicant's burden to distinguish apparatus claims by their structure not their function.

While features of an apparatus may be recited either structurally or functionally, claims directed to an apparatus must be distinguished from the prior art in terms of structure rather than function. In re Schreiber, 128 F.3d 1473, 1477-78, 44 USPQ2d 1429, 1431-32 (Fed. Cir. 1997) (The absence of a disclosure in a prior art reference relating to function did not defeat the Board's finding of anticipation of claimed apparatus because the limitations at issue were found to be inherent in the prior art reference); see also In re Swinehart, 439 F.2d 210, 212-13, 169 USPQ 226, 228-29 (CCPA 1971); In re Danly, 263 F.2d 844, 847, 120 USPQ 528, 531 (CCPA 1959). "[A]pparatus claims cover what a device is, not what a device does." *Hewlett-Packard Co. v. Bausch & Lomb Inc.*, 909 F.2d 1464, 1469, 15 USPQ2d 1525, 1528 (Fed. Cir. 1990) (emphasis in original).

A claim containing a "recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus" if the prior art apparatus teaches all the structural limitations of the claim. *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1987) (The preamble of claim 1 recited that the apparatus was "for mixing flowing developer material" and the body of the claim recited "means for mixing . . . , said mixing means being stationary and completely submerged in the developer material". The claim was rejected over a reference which taught all the structural limitations of the claim for the intended use of mixing flowing developer. However, the mixer was only partially submerged in the developer material. The Board held that the amount of submersion is immaterial to the structure of the mixer and thus the claim was properly rejected.).

If applicants believe that interview would further advance the prosecution of this application such is highly solicited.